

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide an update to the tentative development of a new **Commonwealth Healthcare Network Fund Consortium (CHNF)** that will be sponsored and administered by the Office of Broadband Outreach and Development (OBOD). As you may be aware, starting in January, 2014, the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) will provide a 65% subsidy on eligible expenses related to broadband connectivity for not-for-profit healthcare facilities that are aligned for participation through a consortium.

The Broadband Office along with our partners the Kentucky TeleHealth Network, Commonwealth Office of Technology and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services are in the Planning and Organizational Phase to form a consortium to take advantage of the significant federal funding opportunity that will be made available to not-for-profit healthcare entities across the Commonwealth. As the Consortium Leader, there are many steps involved to building a consortium. In August, we hosted 3 Information Conference calls and sent out Letters of Interest to all known healthcare facilities throughout the Commonwealth. By October, we had received roughly 94 returned Letters of Interest, with 800+ healthcare facilities requesting consortium membership. Although new applicants for the HCF will be eligible to receive funding starting on January 1, 2014, a project of the scale and scope of the CHNF could take at least up to one year to implement. You have three options available to you:

1. Become a part of the CHNF consortium
2. Apply to the HCF on your own, either as an individual facility or you can create your own organizational consortium.
3. Apply to, or continue to apply to, the traditional Universal Services for Healthcare fund that will subsidize your broadband services, usually at a rate much less than the HCF.

Even if you choose not to participate in option #1, you should take advantage of the existing Universal Services programs as soon as possible to begin saving money.

Please be on the look-out for a CHNF program update within the next few weeks and if you have any questions, please direct them to chnf@ky.gov

Thank you,
Commonwealth Healthcare Network Fund